

SENATE BILL 329

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SB 791/00 - FIN

2003 Regular Session  
3r1505  
CF 3r1555

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By: **Senators Lawlah, Astle, Conway, Currie, Hollinger, Jones, Kasemeyer,  
Kelley, Kramer, Middleton, Miller, Ruben, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Oral Health Programs - Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to  
4 establish the Oral Health Program to prevent and detect oral cancer in the State  
5 with a certain focus and intent; targeting the Program to the needs of high-risk  
6 underserved populations; requiring the Secretary, in consultation with certain  
7 providers, to develop and implement certain programs to train health care  
8 providers to screen and refer patients with oral cancers and to promote certain  
9 smoking cessation programs; requiring the Secretary to evaluate the Program  
10 and to submit certain reports annually to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly; requiring the Oral Health Advisory Committee to make certain  
12 recommendations; providing for the funding of certain programs established  
13 under the provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Oral Health  
14 Program.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article - Health - General  
17 Section 18-1001 through 18-1003 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 10.  
18 Oral Health Program"  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Health - General**

24 **SUBTITLE 10. ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**

25 18-1001.

26 THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE THE ORAL HEALTH  
27 PROGRAM TO PREVENT AND DETECT ORAL CANCER IN THE STATE, WITH A PRIMARY

1 FOCUS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, WITH  
2 THE INTENT TO REDUCE ORAL CANCER MORTALITY.

3 18-1002.

4 (A) IN CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL CARE PROVIDERS, THE SECRETARY  
5 SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ONGOING ORAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL  
6 PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:

7 (1) TO TRAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO SCREEN AND PROPERLY  
8 REFER PATIENTS WITH ORAL CANCERS; AND

9 (2) TO PROMOTE SMOKING CESSATION WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF  
10 MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

11 (B) THE PROGRAMS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
12 OF THIS SECTION SHALL ADDRESS:

13 (1) THE RISK FACTORS THAT LEAD TO ORAL CANCER;

14 (2) THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ORAL CANCER;

15 (3) THE HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS THAT MAY LEAD TO ORAL CANCER; AND

16 (4) THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SCREENING TO DETECT ORAL CANCER.

17 18-1003.

18 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL SUBMIT A  
19 REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND,  
20 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY ON THE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any programs  
23 established under the provisions of this Act shall be funded as provided for in the  
24 State budget.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the existing Oral  
26 Health Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary shall recommend to the  
27 Secretary the best methods to promote and implement a strategy to decrease oral  
28 cancer mortality and to implement the provisions of this Act.

29 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
30 effect October 1, 2003.